

Filed for intro on 06/12/2000

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 853

By Brown

A RESOLUTION to commend Erle S. Gooding for his honorable and astute service to the people of Tennessee as Manager of Booker T. Washington State Park and for his outstanding record of public service.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those estimable public servants who have dedicated their professional careers and personal excellence to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, Erle S. Gooding is one such person who evinces the greatest integrity and probity in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Gooding served in the United States Army from 1967 to 1971, including valiant service as a combat infantryman with the 4th Infantry Division in the Republic of Vietnam; following his military service he attended the University of Texas at El Paso and earned a Bachelor of Arts in History; and

WHEREAS, Erle Gooding then moved to Tennessee and worked as a counselor for Opportunity House, Inc. from November 1978 to October 1980, providing counseling to prior federal offenders, coordinating training and employment opportunities and monitoring daily activities for consideration in the final release determination for such offenders; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Gooding joined the Division of State Parks in the Tennessee Department of Conservation in 1980, serving at Red Clay State Park and Montgomery Bell State Park before coming to Booker T. Washington State Park in 1991, when the Department was reorganized as the Department of Environment and Conservation; and

WHEREAS, throughout his exemplary tenure as Manager of Booker T. Washington State Park, Erle Gooding has distinguished himself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order and an exceptional asset to his community; he serves as liaison for the Department to regional media outlets, civic organizations and community-wide organizations that require interpretation of programs and park activities; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Gooding made himself available as a speaker at Tennessee State University in 1992, speaking to a class in the Department of Hotel and Restaurant Administration and, again in 1993, he spoke at TSU about careers in state parks; he has received numerous awards, including a certificate of participation from Centenary United Methodist Church for his work in its Inner City Ministry in 1994, a letter of appreciation from the YMCA of Metropolitan Chattanooga for his part in the Capital Campaign in 1995, a Certificate of Appreciation from the Hamilton County Board of Commissioners in 1997, and a Certificate of Appreciation for his part in the third annual "Walk for Health and Hunger" sponsored by the Chattanooga Chapter of the Links, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, in 1998, Erle Gooding received a Certificate of Appreciation from the Xerox KideXecs program, a letter of thanks for his role in the Career Day program at Howard Elementary School, acknowledgement for his part in the Title I Parent Involvement Program of the Hamilton County Department of Education in 1998, a thank-you letter for serving on the Resource Management Task Force of Hamilton County's Urban Growth Plan, and a special *You Make a Difference* award from the Scenic Cities Beautiful Commission for his participation in the 1998 Earth Day Program; and

WHEREAS, under Mr. Gooding's able direction, Booker T. Washington State Park received a Certificate of Appreciation for its Summer Youth Volunteer Program in 1994 and, on

November 28, 1998, the Department of Environment and Conservation announced that Booker T. Washington State Park was fully compliant with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act; for the past three years the Park has sponsored the Earth Day Program for 2,500 Hamilton County 4th grade students and, in 1999, hosted 2,000 Boy Scouts in their Y2K Jamboree; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Gooding's outstanding success as a public servant and civic leader is directly attributable to his reliance on the time-honored values of hard work and common sense and his uncommon ability to work well with people from all walks of life; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Gooding is an extremely giving person who often reaches out with compassion to people whom life has treated unkindly, and he epitomizes the ideal of the consummate professional, dedicated public servant and reliable friend and neighbor; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Gooding is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State," and he should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby commend Erle S. Gooding for his honorable and astute service to the good people of Tennessee as Manager of Booker T. Washington State Park, for his dedicated and unselfish record of outstanding civic service to the citizens of Hamilton County and the state of Tennessee, and salute his unswerving commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.